(b) This facility would be available at these airports in the next 3-12 months. Internet facilitates connectivity between various AAI airports for flow of data, voice and video, which can be stored and updated from time to time for the benefit of the organisation and the security and control of its employees.

(c) In Karnataka, Bangalore airport has already been provided with internet facility. Work on intranet is already in progress at Mangalore airport. This facility has also been planned for Belgaum and Hubli Airports in the current financial year.

Encroachments around Mumbai Airport

2214. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai airport is surrounded by various types of encroachments; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Encroachments have been caused by a complex set of interacting factors such as economic, social, administrative etc.

NOC applied by IA Pilots

2215. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines is currently facing a threat of poaching of its pilots by private carriers with the lure of a bigger pay packet;

(b) whether IA pilots are resorting to pressure tactics by seeking 'No Objection Certificate' from IA management to join a better and" rewarding airlines and if so, whether sixty-two pilots have sought the NOC so far; and

(c) whether IA is already paying pilots salaries ranging from Rs. 35.00 lakhs to Rs. 70.00 lakhs per annum and if so, whether IA is in a position to match the salary range of the private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFULPATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Of the 63 Pilots who had sought 'No Objection Certificate; to join other airlines 59 Pilots have withdrawn their requests. Remaining 4 Pilots also are continuing in the service of Indian Airlines and are performing their duties regularly.

(c) Yes, Sir. In Indian Airlines' estimate, the present salary structure is in line with the market conditions.

Losses to IA on Discounted Fares

†2216. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines will have to suffer economic loss as a result of making air travel cheaper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the scheme for compensating the said loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Indian Airlines in order to remain competitive in the market, keeps on offering promotional fares/ schemes from time to time on various sectors depending on the market dynamics. In Indian Airlines' estimate, the gains likely to be made by winning over new passenger segments outweigh the marginal loss of yield per passenger on the limited number of seats offered under such schemes.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Aircraft-Employee Ratio

2217. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Aircraft-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;

(b) the seat-employee ratio of Indian Airlines and Air India separately;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.